

**House Resolution**

**No. 29**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Campos**

August 19, 2015

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House Resolution No. 29—Relative to Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, Each year in the United States, over 20,000 women  
2 are diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and about 14,500 women die  
3 of this disease; and

4 WHEREAS, If diagnosed and treated at an early stage before  
5 the cancer spreads outside of the ovary, the treatment is potentially  
6 less costly, and the five-year survival rate is higher, at  
7 approximately 70 percent. However, fewer than 20 percent of  
8 ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed early. An overwhelming 80  
9 percent of all ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed at advanced  
10 stages; and

11 WHEREAS, Although mortality rates for other cancers have  
12 been reduced due to the capabilities of early detection and enhanced  
13 treatments, ovarian cancer causes more deaths than any other  
14 cancer of the female reproductive system. Unfortunately, women  
15 with ovarian cancer do not share the luxury of early detection. This  
16 cancer is among the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers; and

17 WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer has been predicted to reach  
18 epidemic proportions as the population ages because advancing  
19 age is one of the known risk factors for the development of ovarian  
20 cancer. About 90 percent of women who get ovarian cancer are  
21 older than 40 years of age, with the greatest number of cases  
22 occurring in women 60 years of age or older; and

1 WHEREAS, The symptoms of ovarian cancer are vague and  
2 not well known by the public. While ovarian cancer is the ninth  
3 most common cancer among the female population, it is the fifth  
4 leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women; and

5 WHEREAS, When ovarian cancer is found in its early stages,  
6 treatment works best. Ovarian cancer often causes signs and  
7 symptoms, so it is important for women to pay attention to their  
8 bodies and know what is normal for them. Symptoms may be  
9 caused by something other than cancer, but the only way to know  
10 is for women to see their doctor, nurse, or other health care  
11 professional; and

12 WHEREAS, It is critical for women, physicians, and all health  
13 care providers to recognize the risk factors and symptoms of  
14 gynecologic cancers and to remember the importance of early  
15 detection in preventing and treating this disease; and

16 WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the citizens of the State of  
17 California to work together as concerned people to increase  
18 research in understanding the causes, finding effective screening  
19 and prevention strategies, and developing improved therapies for  
20 ovarian cancers; now, therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
22 Assembly hereby recognizes the month of September 2015, and  
23 every September thereafter, as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month  
24 throughout the State of California, and encourages and promotes  
25 the efforts of the people and the health care practitioners of the  
26 state to increase their awareness of this disease and to educate  
27 themselves about its early detection and prevention, the risk factors  
28 involved in its development, and the early warning symptoms and  
29 signs; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
31 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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